

Financial Aid News

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Online resources for aid administrators

- [Higher Education Coordinating Board Web site](#)
- [HECB secure Web site for aid administrators](#)
- [State Need Grant](#)
- [State Work Study](#)
- [Washington Promise Scholarship](#)
- [Educational Opportunity Grant](#)
- [Washington Scholars Program](#)
- [WAVE](#)
- [Other state aid programs](#)
- [Past issues of the *Financial Aid News* and other publications](#)
- [Washington Financial Aid Association](#)
- [Washington State Association of Student Employment Administrators](#)
- [Western Association of Financial Aid Administrators](#)
- [Western Association of Student Employment Administrators](#)
- [National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators](#)



Higher Education
Coordinating Board

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Issue 27 — May 9, 2003

In this issue:

- *Financial Aid News* celebrates first anniversary
- SWS survey of expenditures due today
- SWS holds competition for new and continuing community service projects
- State financial aid workshops offer basic training, program updates
- Legislative update
 - Special session on hold as lawmakers seek common budget ground
 - Governor's veto authorizes in-state tuition for undocumented students
 - Online resources for tracking and analyzing legislation
 - Budget proposal comparisons
 - Active bills of interest by subject

Financial Aid News celebrates first anniversary, and we'd like to know what you think

April 25 marked the one-year anniversary of the *Financial Aid News*. The *News* has about 170 subscribers, including financial aid officers, student services administrators, college and university business office staff, state policymakers, and legislative staff.

As we publish this, our 27th issue, we want to know what you think of the *News*. Do the articles provide the information you need? Is the information timely? Would you like to see the *News* in your inbox more frequently? Less? The same?

To help us know how we can serve you better, we're asking you to take about three to five minutes to complete an

online survey. To proceed, simply click on the hyperlink in the box below. Your Internet browser will automatically direct you to the survey.

[Please click here to take the survey.](#)

Thanks for taking time to give us your feedback. We look forward to reading your responses. If you have questions about the survey, contact John McLain at johnmcl@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7833.

SWS survey of expenditures due today

The State Work Study (SWS) program's most recent survey of expenditures is due today. Staff sent the survey to financial aid and student employment administrators on April 24th. This survey gives colleges and universities the opportunity to request additional funds or turn back a portion of their allotments for students to earn at other institutions.

If you administer an SWS program but haven't returned the expenditure survey yet, please do so now. Prompt responses will help the Board redistribute any available funds as quickly as possible. For more information, contact Khris Blumer at khrisb@hecb.wa.gov or at 360-753-7847.

SWS holds competition for new and continuing community service projects

Caring for children in crisis. Restoring salmon habitat. Reaching across cultures. Building community networks. Helping infants with disabilities master new skills.

For over 10 years, the Higher Education Coordinating Board has sponsored community service projects like these to promote civic engagement and service among students eligible for the Washington State Work Study (SWS) program.

In addition to meeting major SWS program goals of helping needy students pay for college and gain relevant work experience, these projects bring colleges and communities together as they identify community problems and design civic-based approaches to address them. As a result, students anchor their own learning and secure a better understanding of their place in the world.

The Board has issued a request for proposals (RFP) to fund SWS community service projects for 2003-04. Proposals are due June 2, 2003. You can download the RFP at the Board's Web site: [SWS community service RFP](#).

Selected proposals will receive funding to employ a group of about five to seven workstudy-eligible college students dedicated to the community need described in the proposal. Most of the funds are for student wages, but a modest amount may be used for project administrative needs. The Board will announce new awards for 2003-04 in July.

Community service projects first funded in 2002-03 may apply for a second year of funding. The deadline for renewal applications is May 15. Applicants for renewal are encouraged not simply to extend the results of their first year, but to take their projects to a new level. Renewal applicants can expect to hear back about second-year proposals by the end of June.

For more information, contact Jeffrey Powell at jeffreyp@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 704-4150.

State financial aid workshops offer basic training, program updates **Annual financial aid workshops at a location near you**

Over the next two weeks, the Board will host its annual state student financial aid workshops in four different locations. Each workshop covers 2003-04 updates and provides basic training on State Need Grant, State Work Study, Educational Opportunity Grant, and some of the smaller aid programs.

You may review a workshop agenda — available at the [Board's Web site](#) — to see when specific program information will be presented. We encourage you to send any staff you think will benefit from the workshop. Participants can attend for the entire day or for individual sessions on specific programs.

The workshop dates and locations are:

- **Yakima** — Thursday, May 15 — Yakima Valley Community College
- **Spokane** — Friday, May 16 — Whitworth College
- **Seattle** — Wednesday, May 21 — North Seattle Community College
- **Centralia** — Thursday, May 22 — Centralia College

For more information, contact Colleen Scovill at colleens@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7850.

Legislative update

Special session on hold as lawmakers seek common budget ground

Slow budget negotiations between the House and Senate will likely delay most lawmakers' return for a special session called by Gov. Gary Locke. Negotiators from both the House and Senate have said they are unlikely to reach agreement before the session's scheduled May 12 start.

Senate leaders have decided they will convene the session as scheduled on Monday, but then immediately adjourn to give negotiators more time to hammer out a budget agreement. During this "rolling recess," most members can stay home until they are needed for official business.

At this writing, House leaders have not said if they, too, will adopt the "rolling recess" strategy while negotiators are working. But one House leader admitted that talks were going "too slow."

The full House passed a budget proposal on April 26, before the end of the regular session, but the provisions of the spending plan differ significantly from the Senate's budget bill, passed on April 4.

Taxes appear to be the major sticking point for negotiators from the two houses. The House budget did not include an earlier proposal by the Appropriations Committee to finance a student achievement fund with \$379 million in new sales tax and gambling revenues. But it does propose other new taxes and revenues to provide \$400 million in additional spending in 2003-05.

The Senate budget, mirroring the governor's December recommendations, has proposed no new revenues.

Marty Brown, Gov. Locke's budget director, told [*The Olympian*](#) yesterday that negotiators are focused "on the revenues." They haven't begun to discuss specific funding for programs.

There are some notable differences between the proposals in planned spending for financial aid, but those differences stem directly from differences in authorized increases to resident undergraduate tuition. The House and Senate agree that the State Need Grant (SNG) program should see dollar-for-dollar increases to offset increases in tuition; SNG would continue to be limited to students with family incomes at 55 percent or below the state's median. And both houses want to restore the Washington Scholars award and Washington Award for Vocational Excellence to the full value of tuition and fees.

The Senate proposes a biennial increase of about \$34 million across the three programs to cover 9 percent annual tuition increases. The House plan, meanwhile, calls for \$24 million more to cover annual tuition increases of 6 percent.

Page 6 of this newsletter provides a side-by-side comparison of the budget plans currently on the table.

Governor's veto opens in-state tuition for undocumented students

Gov. Gary Locke signed House Bill 1079 into law on May 7, and — with the use of his veto authority — qualified some children of undocumented workers for in-state tuition rates.

The bill, as introduced in the House, allowed undocumented students who have lived in the state at least three years and graduated from a Washington high school to pay in-state tuition at public colleges and universities. The Senate amended the bill to limit resident tuition only to those whose families have green cards, work visas, or federal immigration amnesty.

Locke vetoed the bill section containing the Senate amendment and preserved the legislation's original intent.

"We are opening the doors of higher education to a group of deserving students who have previously been locked out," Locke said in a press release.

Rep. Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney (D-Seattle) sponsored the legislation. "This bill does not provide a special right to a segment of the population but rather it is about fairness and equity," she said. "These students will strengthen our local and state economy and will enrich the culture and social fabric of our higher education institutions, our state and nation."

The legislation does not change students' legal residency or citizenship status. Only the federal government can do that. Under the new law, students are required to affirm that they will take steps toward citizenship.

The governor's press release concerning the legislation and his veto is online: [Gov. Gary Locke signs tuition bill into law](#).

Online resources for tracking and analyzing legislation

Full text of bills and supporting materials:	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm
Complete legislative hearing schedule:	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm
Live and archived Web broadcast of all hearings:	http://www.tvw.org
HECB 2003 legislative session site:	http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Leg/index.asp

Budget proposal comparisons

Changes in funding, unless noted, reflect the differences between biennia.

	2003-05 Governor proposal	2003-05 Senate proposal	2003-05 House proposal
SNG	Increases by \$32.1 million, to keep pace with planned 9 percent rise in resident undergraduate tuition — service level at 55 percent median family income	Increases by \$32.3 million, to keep pace with planned 9 percent rise in resident undergraduate tuition — service level at 55 percent median family income	Increases by \$22.3 million, to keep pace with planned 6 percent rise in resident undergraduate tuition — service level at 55 percent median family income; reduces grant amounts at private institutions
Washington Scholars and WAVE	Increases by a combined \$1.2 million	Increases by a combined \$1.9 million to support increased use of the Scholars award and restore both awards to full tuition and fees	Increases by a combined \$1.7 million to support increased use of the Scholars award and restore both awards to full tuition and fees
Promise	Maintains at 2002-03 level, \$12.1 million for the biennium	Maintains at 2002-03 level, \$12.1 million for the biennium	Maintains at 2002-03 level, \$12.1 million for the biennium
SWS, EOG, Health Professions	No change	No change	No change
Tuition	Caps annual tuition increases at 9 percent for resident undergraduates	Caps annual tuition increases at 9 percent for resident undergraduates	Caps annual tuition increases at 6 percent for resident undergraduates
Tuition waiver restrictions	No changes proposed	Restricts tuition waivers resulting in a \$16.6 million reduction from the General Fund; CTC's reduction of \$7 million to be offset by charging \$5 per credit hour fees for adult basic education, ESL, GED coursework	No changes proposed

Active bills of interest by subject

Bills that did not meet the latest cutoff have been deleted. For current information about the status of a bill, visit the Washington State Legislature's Web site: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm>.

Bill number Senate House	Sponsor(s)	Description	Passed house of origin	Passed opposite house	Signed by governor
2003-05 operating budget					
ESSB 5404	Rossi	Makes 2003-05 operating appropriations A comparison of the financial aid provisions of the Senate and House bills and the governor's proposal is provided on the previous page; lawmakers return on May 12 in special session to arrive at compromise spending plan	✓	✓	
Educational Opportunity Grant and Washington Promise Scholarship					
ESB 5676	Kohl-Welles	Changes elements of the Educational Opportunity Grant program; financially needy placebound residents from all of the state's 39 counties may be eligible; recipients could attend branch campuses; also allows recipients of GED certificates to be eligible for Promise scholarships if they meet other academic eligibility criteria	✓	✓	
Tuition refunds for aid recipients					
HB 2113	Morrell, Cox	Permits four-year public institutions to adopt tuition refund policies that reduce aid recipients' liability in required repayments of federal aid	✓	✓	

Active bills of interest by subject — continued

Bills that did not meet the latest cutoff have been deleted. For current information about the status of a bill, visit the Washington State Legislature's Web site: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm>.

Bill number Senate House	Sponsor(s)	Description	Passed house of origin	Passed opposite house	Signed by governor
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Other financial aid and tuition waiver proposals

SSB 5189	Benton	Exempts veterans of the Korean conflict (active duty from 1950-55) from tuition increases	✓	✓	
ESHB 1277	Kenney, Cox	Creates a supplemental educational assistance grant program for State Need Grant eligible students with dependents; private sources would fund the program	✓	✓	✓

Tuition and residency

E2SSB 5135	Carlson, Kohl-Welles	As approved by the House and Senate, requires each state four-year institution and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to develop policies to ensure enrolled undergraduates complete degree and certificate programs in a timely manner. Institution-based policies must address, at a minimum, students who (a) accumulate more than 125 percent of the credits necessary to graduate; (b) drop more than 25 percent of their class load during a term; and (c) are on academic probation for longer than one term. State higher education institutions may assess a tuition surcharge for continued enrollment of such students as a matter of local policy	✓	✓	
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Active bills of interest by subject — continued

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Bill number Senate House	Sponsor(s)	Description	Passed house of origin	Passed opposite house	Signed by governor
EHB 1079	Kenney, Cox	As originally passed by the House, authorized resident tuition for certain undocumented students residing in Washington; student must have attended at least three years of high school in the state Senate amendments significantly restricted the groups of students that would be eligible for resident tuition; the House agreed to the amendments The governor signed the measure, but vetoed the section containing the Senate amendments, returning the bill to what was originally passed by the House	✓	✓	✓
ESSB 5448	Carlson, Kohl-Welles	Extends institutional tuition-setting authority for all but resident undergraduates through 2008-09	✓	✓	

Higher Education Coordinating Board

ESHB 2076	Kenney, Cox, Fromhold	Replaces Board's current mandate to develop a state master plan for higher education every four years with new guidelines to develop a strategic plan for higher education	✓	✓	✓
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Other higher education proposals

SHB 2111	Priest, Jarrett	As amended, provides for a legislative study of the feasibility of performance contracts between the state and institutions of higher education	✓	✓	✓
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